

15 percent to 11.3 percent by next year, and would seek to completely eliminate the out-of-pocket housing expenses by 2005. The 2002 Defense Authorization bill would also provide \$17.6 billion for defense healthcare including funding for promised care under TRICARE for Medicare-eligible military retirees.

The bill also includes important environmental cleanup provisions and assistance to foreign nations for humanitarian efforts. The bill would provide \$3 billion for the Energy Department to clean facilities with extensive and severe environmental damage before those facilities close. Funding for the development of new technologies to clean the environment is also included in the bill.

Despite these important provisions, I have grave concerns with certain provisions in the bill that I believe could harm our nation's relations with key allies. This bill includes \$8.2 billion for missile defense, which is 55 percent more than the current funding level. It also includes authorization to construct a test bed for a national missile defense system in Alaska. This test bed could violate the AntiBallistic Missile (ABM) treaty, which has been the cornerstone of international arms control for nearly 30 years. The proposed national missile defense system has only been tested in ways that can be described as artificial, and a majority of those tests have failed. In fact, a panel of Defense Department experts cautioned that Congress's rush to install a national missile defense was a "rush to failure."

Congress's misguided insistence on developing a missile defense shield and its apparent willingness to abrogate the ABM treaty seriously injure America's relations with its foreign allies. Our European allies—Britain, France and others—have expressed reservations about America's unilateral approach toward national missile defense. Additionally, Congress's insistence on a national missile defense that violates the ABM treaty could incite another arms race. Already, China has warned that it would acquire as many ballistic missiles with as many warheads as possible if the United States unilaterally deploys a missile defense.

While I strongly oppose provisions in the bill that would violate the ABM treaty by pushing forward with the development of a missile shield, I voted for the Defense Authorization bill with the understanding that both Republicans and Democrats will work together to come to an agreement on these contentious provisions. The Senate has already indicated its intention to cut \$1 billion from the funding contained in the bill for missile defense and it intends to consider a separate bill at a later date that will ensure Congress's authority to oversee any missile tests that could violate the ABM treaty.

TRIBUTE TO THE STUDENT BODY AND FACULTY OF CHOTEAU ELE- MENTARY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Student Body and Faculty of Choteau Elementary for its work and sacrifice in honor of all the people who both survived

and who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, their families and their friends.

These terrorist attacks mark a solemn moment in America's history. American men and women, civilians and soldiers, firefighters and police, mothers and fathers, were slain for a cause so terrible, so heinous, and so despicable that we find it unimaginable and indescribable. United, Americans seek to find meaning and hope in a seemingly hopeless and meaningless act. In the days since these terrible terrorist attacks, America has been shoulder-to-shoulder in a struggle to meet the challenges of a world that is a little less safe, a little scarier, and far less predictable. The efforts of young people like that of Choteau Elementary signify the commitment and concern of Americans everywhere. Our nation's strength does not lie in her military might but rather in the collective compassion of its people.

Since the September 11th terrorist attacks, the Student Body and Faculty of Choteau Elementary has contributed and raised more than \$2,300 in a school-wide change drive for the grieving families and rescue workers. The patriotism and persistence of Student Body and Faculty of Choteau Elementary is a lasting memorial to the thousands of victims who perished in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania.

Through the days, weeks, and months ahead, all Americans must come together and do what they can to assist the nation's war effort. Whether it is giving blood, sending donations, praying for the thousands of grieving families, or simply saying thanks to the brave men and women who put their lives on the line each and every day so that we may be free, it is important that the American people are vigilant in their efforts to overcome this evil. Though our nation has witnessed unspeakable horror, America's virtues, determination, and faith continues to shine brightly on the world.

I am confident that the United States will seek out those that harbor hatred, terror, and depravity in their hearts; and we will defeat them. This is a war that we must, can, and will win. May God bless the families and children grieving across this great nation and may God bless America.

DEPARTURE OF NEA CHAIRMAN WILLIAM J. IVEY

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. William J. Ivey, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, who will be stepping down on September 31, 2001.

Since 1998, when the United States Senate unanimously confirmed Mr. Ivey as NEA Chairman, he has forged effective working relationships with more than 250 members of the U.S. Congress.

Through these relationships, Mr. Ivey helped secure a \$7 million funding increase for the NEA's Challenge America program in Fiscal Year 2002, their first budget increase in a decade. The Challenge America program devel-

oped by Mr. Ivey supports arts education, services for young people, cultural heritage preservation, community partnerships and expanded access to the arts. Without a doubt, this program will contribute to the rich artistic and cultural fabric that has been woven over the course of our nation's history.

Mr. Speaker, as the U.S. Representative for the 3rd Congressional District of New Mexico, I have the privilege of serving several well-known art communities. On behalf of them and all those throughout the United States of America, who like myself, cherish the various arts and their valuable contributions to our society and culture, I would like to thank Mr. Ivey for his work as NEA Chairman.

It was a pleasure to work with him and I am sorry to see him go, but am greatly appreciative of all that he has done and will continue to do on behalf of the arts and I wish him the best of luck with all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CHAIRMAN IVEY

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chairman Bill Ivey who will soon be stepping down as Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts and returning to Nashville, Tennessee. Although I am saddened by his leaving, I am proud that he will once again be one of my constituents in his new position as the Harvie Branscomb Distinguished University Visiting Scholar at Vanderbilt University.

In his new capacity, he will teach, write and conduct research on cultural policy as well as begin the planning and development of a center that will examine the complex relationship between the arts and public policy. Prior to his most recent position, Bill was one of the most widely respected individuals in both the music community as well as the business community at large. Bill joined the Country Music Foundation in Nashville in 1971. The Foundation is accredited by the American Association of Museums as a nonprofit education and research center. It operates the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, manages historic properties and publishes a well-respected journal.

Under Chairman Ivey's stewardship, the NEA has funded extremely valuable and important educational programs and worthwhile events in my home state of Tennessee and across the country. The NEA provides funding for many programs in Tennessee, including the Nashville Symphony Association, Fisk University, and the Tennessee Arts Commission. I believe it is important to ensure that adequate funding for these programs continues.

Chairman Ivey has restored the image of the NEA and, under his leadership, federal funding has risen steadily. He has successfully brought a diverse array of arts and cultural programs into rural and previously underserved communities across the country. Programs such as ARTSReach: Strengthening Communities Through the Arts have helped build more than 223 partnerships between arts organizations and civic organizations—schools, churches, chambers of commerce and youth groups—in more than 175 communities in 20 under-served states. This highly